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SECRETARY AND TREASURER
J. W. BEATSON 6 BEACON STREET, BOSTON

The
National Economic League
6 Beacon Street
Boston, Mass.

PURPOSE

THE PURPOSE OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC LEAGUE IS TO CREATE AN INFORMED AND DISINTERESTED LEADERSHIP FOR PUBLIC OPINION—A LEADERSHIP THAT IS FREE FROM PARTISAN BIAS OR CLASS INTEREST AND THAT WILL BE ACCEPTED AS REPRESENTING THE BEST THOUGHT OF THIS COUNTRY.

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PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

August 16th, 1926.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed you will find the result of our recent vote on Prohibition.

If no mention of this referendum has been made in your local newspaper, we shall appreciate it if you will send the attached material to the editor, preferably with a note calling attention to its significance and importance.

We are sending you also some tentative suggestions for a possible second referendum.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. BEATSON
Secretary

To the members of the National Council
of The National Economic League.

1818

VOTE

OF

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

OF

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC LEAGUE

6 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

ON

PROHIBITION

Membership of Council	4600
Number of ballots cast	1904

THE EIGHTEENTH AMENDMENT

1. Do you favor the repeal of the 18th (Prohibition) Constitutional Amendment?

YES	NO	NOT VOTING
841	**997**	**66**
44%	52%	4%

If the 18th Amendment is repealed,

(a) **Should Prohibition then be left to the States?**

YES	NO	NOT VOTING
685	**466**	**753**
36%	24%	40%

(b) **Should the Federal Government then be given power by Constitutional Amendment to control the sale of all intoxicating liquors, (through Federal dispensaries or otherwise), except in such States as prohibit the liquor traffic by their own laws?**

YES	NO	NOT VOTING
795	**416**	**693**
42%	22%	36%

THE VOLSTEAD ACT

If the Eighteenth Amendment is not repealed,

2. Should the Volstead Act

		YES	
I. (a)	**Be retained as it is?**	**167**	9%
	or		
(b)	**Should it be reinforced by more effective provisions?**	**641**	34%
	or		
(c)	**Be modified so as to permit or allow greater alcoholic content in beverages?**	**427**	22%
	or		
(d)	**Should it be repealed?**	**569**	30%
	Not voting		5%

If the Volstead Act is repealed,

II. **Should local enforcement of the Eighteenth Amendment be left entirely to the States?**

YES	NO	NOT VOTING
602	**648**	**654**
32%	34%	34%

*If the Volstead Act is modified,**

III. (a) **Should Congress define the words "intoxicating liquor for beverage purposes" in the 18th Amendment so as to apply to distilled liquor only, and not to fermented beverages such as beer and wine?**

YES	NO	NOT VOTING
588	**529**	**787**
31%	28%	41%

(b) **Should the question as to whether any particular beverage is, in fact, intoxicating be left to court and jury rather than definitely established in legislation?**

YES	NO	NOT VOTING
293	**952**	**659**
15%	50%	35%

(c) **Should each State be permitted to determine by legislation the limit of the alcoholic content of beverages permissible under the 18th Amendment?**

YES	NO	NOT VOTING
405	**943**	**556**
21%	50%	29%

(d) **Would you favor a Federal statute fixing a maximum alcoholic content permissible under the Prohibition Constitutional Amendment, but allowing the Legislature of each State to fix its own percentage of alcoholic content within the maximum?**

YES	NO	NOT VOTING
547	**788**	**569**
29%	41%	30%

(e) **How high a percentage of alcoholic content, in your opinion, under the 18th Amendment, should be permitted or allowed: for example, for beer?—for wine?**

(Pre war beers usually contained from 4% to 6% of alcoholic content by volume.)
(Pre war wines (unfortified) usually contained from 8% to 14% of alcoholic content by volume.)

FOR BEER		FOR WINE
Average vote		Average vote
4%		9%

VOTING
999

IV. **Should the Federal Government (if the Volstead Act is modified so as to permit or allow greater alcoholic content in beverages) control the sale of such beverages through Federal dispensaries or otherwise?**

YES	NO	NOT VOTING
911	**529**	**464**
48%	28%	24%

V. **Would you favor allowing alcoholic beverages manufactured under a modification of the Volstead Act to be consumed**

(a) **In public drinking places?**

YES	NO	NOT VOTING
179	**1273**	**452**
9%	67%	24%

(b) **In hotels and restaurants, if served with food?**

YES	NO	NOT VOTING
901	**599**	**404**
47%	32%	21%

★ It is, of course, understood, in view of the limitation which the 18th Amendment places upon the power of Congress, that any beverages of greater alcoholic content that may be permitted under a modification of the Volstead Act must be, in fact, non-intoxicating.

ENFORCEMENT

3. Should greater effort, and more money if necessary, be spent by the Federal Government in enforcing the 18th Amendment?

YES	NO	NOT VOTING
964	**741**	**199**
51%	39%	10%

4. Would a modification of the Volstead Act, permitting or allowing the sale of beverages of greater alcoholic content, make the enforcement of the Prohibition Amendment in your opinion,

	YES
(a) more easy?	**732**
(b) more difficult?	**746**

5. Should Federal Prohibition officers be subject to the provisions of the Civil Service?

YES	NO	NOT VOTING
1188	**376**	**340**
62%	20%	18%

---

6. Should Congress authorize the appointment of a commission to ascertain and report the facts as to the operation of the Prohibition laws?

YES	NO	NOT VOTING
978	**660**	**266**
51%	35%	14%

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Issued August 1926

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THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC LEAGUE

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George F. Swain
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C. Oliver Wellington
Mrs. W. Morton Wheeler
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John E. White
Ralph H. Whitney
Warren S. Whitney
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Samuel E. Winslow
Frederck Winsor
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Samuel B. Woodward
Mary E. Woolley
Burton H. Wright

SUMMARY OF

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC LEAGUE REFERENDUM ON PROHIBITION

Against repeal of 18th Amendment by small majority

For repeal rather than modification of Volstead Act

Vote on 18th Amendment as follows:

In favor of retaining	52%
In favor of repealing	44%
Not voting	4%

Vote on Volstead Act as follows:

(a)	In favor of retaining as it is	9%
(b)	In favor of reinforcing by more effective provisions	34%
(c)	In favor of modifying so as to permit or allow greater alcoholic contents in beverages	22%
(d)	In favor of repealing	30%
	Not voting	5%
	Total	100%

Total number of ballots cast 1904

Favors Federal rather than State control of liquor traffic in event of repeal of the 18th Amendment.

Proposal to establish dispensaries or other means of providing Federal control of sale of alcoholic beverages, if Volstead Act is modified, supported by following vote:

Yes 48%. No 28%. Not Voting 24%.

Sale of alcoholic beverages in public drinking places in event that Volstead Act is modified, opposed by overwhelming majority, but 47% (with 21% not voting) would allow sale in hotels and restaurants if served with food.

Majority vote favors:

(1) Greater effort and expenditure of more money, if necessary, by the Federal government for enforcement

(2) Putting prohibition officers under civil service rules

(3) Federal commission to ascertain and report facts as to operation of prohibition laws

Consensus on percentage of alcoholic content permissible under the 18th Amendment gives average of 4% for beer and 9% for wine

Of four other questions dealing with alcoholic contents in event of modification of the Volstead Act, largest vote favors proposal that Congress should define the words "intoxicating liquor for beverage purposes" in the 18th Amendment, so as to apply to distilled liquor only and not to fermented beverages such as beer and wine. This proposal, however, appealed to only 31% of the voters.

746 as against 732 of the members (with 425 not voting) think modification of Volstead Act would make enforcement of the prohibition amendment more difficult.

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REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC LEAGUE REFERENDUM ON PROHIBITION
IN A FORM SUITABLE FOR NEWSPAPERS

A nation-wide referendum on Prohibition has just been taken by the National Economic League. A large number of questions covering all phases of the subject were submitted to 4600 highly representative men and women in various parts of the country. Nineteen hundred and four ballots, marked in whole or in part, were returned to the League.

The vote, as far as the question of repealing the 18th Amendment is concerned, resulted in a victory for the drys; 997 of those voting (52% of the total vote) were found to be in favor of retaining the 18th Amendment, with 841 (44%) in favor of its repeal. The remaining four percent did not vote on this question.

On the Volstead Act, however, the vote resulted in a defeat for the Enforcement Act, since only 43% of those who voted were in favor either of retaining it or reinforcing it, while 52% were found to be in favor either of modification or repeal. (Nine percent wished to have it retained as it is, 34% were in favor of reinforcing it by more effective provisions, 22% were in favor of modification, and 30% demanded total repeal. Five percent did not vote.)

Other questions voted on show a further division of opinion regarding the Volstead Act. For example, only 32%, in event of repeal of the Act, were in favor of leaving local enforcement to the States, 34% being opposed, and 34% not voting.

In the event of modification, likewise, not over 31% of the voters favored any one of four proposals suggested for dealing with the question of alcoholic content. Five hundred and eighty-eight (31%) believe that Congress should define the words "intoxicating liquor for beverage purposes" in the 18th Amendment so as to apply to distilled liquor only, and not to fermented beverages such as beer and wine. Only 15% think that the question of whether any particular beverage is, in fact, intoxicating should be left to court and jury. Twenty-one percent believe that each State should be permittted to determine by legislation the limit of alcoholic content permissible under the 18th Amendment, while 29% favor a Federal statute fixing a maximum alcoholic content permissible under the Constitutional Amendment, but allowing the legislature of each State to fix its own percentage of alcoholic content within the maximum.

On the question as to how high a percentage of alcoholic content under the 18th Amendment should be permitted or allowed, an average vote of 4% for beer and 9% for wines was obtained from 999 (52%) of the voters who suggested various percentages.

The vote on two of the questions submitted show a strong sentiment for Government control of the sale of alcoholic beverages. In the event of modification of the Volstead Act, 48% favor control "through Federal dispensaries or otherwise." If the 18th Amendment is repealed, 42% as against 22% think the Federal Government should be given power by Constitutional Amendment to control the sale of all intoxicating liquors through Federal dispensaries or otherwise, except in such States as prohibit the liquor traffic by their own laws. This is against 36% (with 24% opposed and 40% not voting) who think that if the 18th Amendment is repealed, Prohibition should be left to the States.

That very little sentiment in favor of the return of the saloon exists, is shown by the fact that only 9% would allow alcoholic beverages manufactured under a modification of the Volstead Act to be consumed in "public drinking places." Forty-seven percent however favor allowing such beverages to be consumed "in hotels and restaurants, if served with food."

A majority (51%) believes that greater effort should be made and more money, if necessary, spent by the Federal Government in enforcing the 18th Amendment. Sixty-two percent voted that all Federal Prohibition officers should be subject to the provisions of the Civil Service. Fifty-one percent are of the opinion that Congress should authorize the appointment of a commission to ascertain and report the facts as to the operation of the Prohibition laws.

On the question of whether modification of the Volstead Act would make enforcement of the Prohibition Amendment more difficult or more easy, there was an almost equally divided opinion, 732 believing that it would make enforcement easier, while 746 thought that it would make it more difficult.

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PROPOSED

SECOND REFERENDUM

TO

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

OF

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC LEAGUE

ON

PROHIBITION

(These questions are submitted for criticism and suggestion only, and not to be voted on.)

In view of the result of our recent vote on Prohibition, would it be advisable, in your opinion, to submit any or all of the following questions to a vote of our National Council? If so, your suggestions as to better wording of the questions would be appreciated.

Will you kindly draw lines through any questions that you think should not be submitted.

I.

Would you favor legislation by Congress permitting the manufacture of beverages of higher alcoholic content *provided* that such beverages are, in fact, non-intoxicating within the intent of the 18th Amendment and that they shall be sold only through dispensaries controlled or conducted by the Federal Government?

II.

(a) Do you think that beer having an alcoholic content not exceeding 4% by volume can properly be considered as non-intoxicating within the intent of the 18th Amendment?

(b) If not, how high a percentage of alcoholic content for beer would you approve of under Federal control of sales?

III.

(a) Do you think that wine having an alcoholic content not exceeding 9% by volume can properly be considered as non-intoxicating within the intent of the 18th Amendment?

(b) If not, how high a percentage of alcoholic content for wine would you approve of under Federal control of sales?

Any other questions, based upon the result of our last referendum, that you may care to submit will be carefully considered. Your co-operation in framing and revising a list of such questions would be greatly appreciated.

From.....

of (State).....

VOTE

OF

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

OF

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC LEAGUE

6 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

ON

PROHIBITION

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(d)	**Should it be repealed?**	**569**	30%
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If the Volstead Act is repealed,

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FOR BEER		FOR WINE
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VOTING
999

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	YES
(a) more easy?	**732**
(b) more difficult?	**746**

5. Should Federal Prohibition officers be subject to the provisions of the Civil Service?

YES	NO	NOT VOTING
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Issued August 1926

General Wear and Sports Clothes for the Business Woman

EACH day brings further indications of the favor shown mannish fashions for spring, as they are reflected in coats, one-piece dresses and ensemble suits. The business woman is especially keen about this tailored line, and is ordering it in many guises, but inevitably when it appears there is somewhere a distinctly feminine touch.

Typical of this effect is the tomato-bisque homespun above at extreme left. It has the notched collar, rolling lapels and single-button closing that collegiates adore, and then takes unto itself a cluster of crocheted flowers. Isn't that just like a woman? Buttonholes on the sleeves are vertical, and the pocket is topped with a band of pearl-gray homespun to match the buttons. The gray homespun also forms a stripe down the plain back, as at left of small sketch. Lucie Hamar designed the felt hat, with the brim turned up and then down again in a point at the right front. There is an ornament in the shape of a lotus, and through holes in it matching ribbons are woven and allowed to flare high against the crown.

Next to this are two views of an ensemble suit of yellow kasha. The coat has insets of Scotch plaid in brown, yellow and black set in at cuffs and hip length. There is a deep plait at back of coat below the plaid. The frock worn with this coat has a white kasha skirt, with inverted plait in back, and a white crêpe de chine blouse with pin tucks forming stripes, as in the small sketches of front and back, below. A long crêpe de chine tie, striped in colors of the plaid and a yellow leather belt are passed through slots. With the coat a brown taffeta hat from Thénault is worn. It is covered with squares of a pliable and fine yellow straw braid.

One of the much-liked jumper dresses is made of a Scotch plaid shawl, in shades of blue, yellow and rose. At the right side of skirt and of jumper a slit is bound and buttoned in white. The jumper is buttoned down the back and has a slash at center front of neck and an accompanying scarf of kasha. A blue Bangkok hat, designed by Maria Guy, has the brim turned down in front and up in two little points in the back. Grosgrain ribbon of the same shade passes through a slit in the crown in front and ties in a flat bow in back.

It was such a very tailored ensemble suit—the one at extreme right—and then the most utterly feminine touch was thrust upon it in the shape of a very gay chintz trimming and tunic! The suit is of natural-colored kasha, the chintz of brown and yellow and cream. Raglan sleeves and patch pockets carry out the mannish note, and even the picot straw hat from Agnès is as demurely plain as possible.

French fashion, high-heeled footgear is worn with these sports and general-wear costumes, but the American business woman will choose, of course, Cuban or low-heeled one-strap pumps or Oxfords.

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The bridesmaids' frocks—two views of which are given at left of page—are of chartreuse mignonette, a new fabric that is thinner and firmer than chiffon. Greenish-yellow grosgrain ribbon ties in a small bow above bertha collar, and on the long ends are clusters of chartreuse and orange-toned velvet flowers. Similar clusters are on the overlapping shirred panels of the skirt. A white or champagne felt hat, fitting snugly, is worn; and skin-colored hose and blond satin slippers are the choice of attendants and bride.

The maid of honor wears mauve chiffon of a grayish pink, rather than a blue tone. On the deep bertha collar and the two scalloped and shirred flounces are velvet violets in shaded effect. The back is exactly the same as front. A hat of violet felt from Lucie Hamar has tightly curled ostrich feathers of violet and mauve at the right side.

A champagne satin-backed crêpe, made with the satin side out, is the foundation slip for

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